(c) whether it is also a fact that an additional Rs. 95,000 crores is required to carry out the open cast mining activities to increase production from the present 300 MT. to 902 MT. by 2025; and

(d) if so, in what manner Government are planning to pool the resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) A draft Coal Vision 2025 has been prepared by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) giving broad estimate of the tentative investment required for achieving higher coal production in the country. The details are as under:—

Rs. in crores

Activities/Operation	Tentative Investment upto 2025 at current price level
Exploration (CIL, Non-CIL & Captive)	1,312
Opencast mining	95,000
Underground Mining	23,000
Beneficiation	24,480
Thermal Power Plants	1,31,800
Environmental Cost for mining projects (@ Rs. 21/tonne)	2,100
Overseas Equity for Coal Videsh (10MTY)	7,000

(c) The draft Coal Vision document envisages an increase in all India opencast production from 298 MT in 2003-04 to 902 MT in 2024-25 for which an investment of Rs. 95,000 crore would be required.

(d) The draft Vision document has been circulated to various stakeholders, Ministries and others concerned for comments and the final views would be firmed up only after wide ranging consultations.

Mining of Coal

1653. SHR B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has more than 1,60,000 million tonnes of coal reserves that cannot be mined;

(b) whether India proposes to tap this unrecoverable coal reserve through underground coal gasification process which is already in operation at Australia's Chichilla Project;

(c) whether India has the requisite technical expertise to build coal gasification plants; and

(d) if not, whether India is scouting for overseas technology/expertise for such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) A total of about 248 billion tonnes of coal resources have been estimatedjay Geological Survey of India (as on 1.1.05). Out of these about 93 billion tonnes are in 'Proved' category for which project planning and mining has been done/may be done and the balance about 155 billion tonnes (1,55,000 million tonnes are in 'Indicated' and 'Inferred' categories). The reserves in 'Indicated and' 'Inferred' categories may be considered for project planning and mining after they are brought to 'Proved' category through detailed exploration. The viability of mining of coal resources however, depends on the economics and the state of technology. With advanced technology and better economics more and more resources may be mined.

(b) Coal India Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Oil & Natural gas Corporation (ONGC) for establishing a pilot project in order to establish the technology of Underground Coal Gasification (UCG). Commercial scale venture to tap unrecoverable coal reserves through UCG will be taken up only when the pilot plant does lead to successful trial.

(c) and (d) India does not have requisite technical expertise to take up underground coal gasification projects. The joint venture of CIL and ONGC is taking the help of Stoichinsky Institute of Mining, Russia who is considered to be pioneer in establishing this technology.

Supply of coal to Kothagudem Power Project

1654. SHRIMATI N.R DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received for supply of coal to the proposed Kothagudem Thermal Power Project Stage-VI;

(b) if so, when;

(c) whether SCCL is going to open cast mines at Sattupally in Khamman District of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, whether Government would instruct SCCL to supply coal to Kothagudem Thermal Power Project; and